

Freeze Protection

By: Melinda Sperl



Protecting your plants from freeze can be a tricky thing but usually can be done with proper preparation. If we have the normal winter for our area we don't lose too many plants but for hard freezes like recent years lost a tremendous amount of plants so good preparation can go a long way to save your plants.

The number one thing for bedding plants is mulch. Mulch will help keep the warmth and moisture in the ground and the freeze further away from the tender roots. Water well before a freeze but not during the actual freeze or you will have icicles.

Most grass has shallow root systems and is dormant now. If you have green fertilized grass or over seeded rye grass when it freezes, water well before a freeze and it should survive without a problem.

Turn off your irrigation system during a hard freeze, drain the water and wrap any exposed pipes.

Bring in any small potted plants and cover those that you leave out in the elements. Cover plants with any material except plastic.

Grafted Trees, like fruit, can be too large to cover so make sure you at least cover over the grafted area or trunk of the tree so the top may freeze but you can recover the main part of the tree. Christmas lights (not LED) make great tree warmers.

Happy Gardening!

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